

***Remarks***

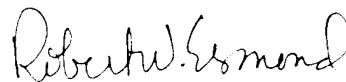
Applicants have amended the specification by adding a paragraph entitled CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS. Support for the amendment can be found, *inter alia*, in the application data sheet, which was submitted with this application at the time of filing. No new matter is added by way of this amendment. Entry thereof is respectfully requested.

***Conclusion***

In view of the amendment to the specification and the above comments, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for immediate examination. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Version with markings to show changes made**

***In the Specification:***

In the specification at page 1, prior to the heading "Field of the Invention" appearing immediately before paragraph 0001, please insert the following paragraph:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

The present application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/246,713, filed on November 9, 2000.